

**PUBLIC SAFETY RADIO STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE  
(PSRSPC)  
MEETING NOTES  
*Final Approved***

**Thursday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2005**

**1:00 P.M. to 2:00 P.M.**

**Held at the Governor's Office of Emergency Services,  
3650 Schriever Avenue, Mather, CA 95655**

**Attendees**

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|--|---|
| ■ Committee members (or designated reps) | ■ Public observers (see attendee list)      |
| ■ Technical Working Group members        | ■ Local and State agency interested parties |

**Documents Available**

- √ Today's agenda
- √ Executive Summary of draft October 31<sup>st</sup> Legislative Report
- √ One-page summary of key elements in the Report

**Welcome and Call to Order**

Adam Sutkus, meeting facilitator from the Center for Collaborative Policy, California State University Sacramento, called the meeting to order. Mr. Sutkus informed the audience that the purpose of this meeting was for the Committee to provide feedback on a rough draft of the Legislative Report submitted on October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2005 by the Committee's staff-level Technical Working Group. A final draft of the report is due to the Legislature on January 1, 2006. Mr. Sutkus briefly went over the ground rules and introduced the Committee Chair, Henry Renteria.

**Chair's Greeting & Comments**

Henry Renteria, Chairman of the PSRSPC and Director of the Governor's Office of Emergency Services, thanked everyone present for coming to the meeting. He gave thanks to the Technical Working Group staff for their work on the report.

Chairman Renteria said that public safety communications interoperability was a high-priority issue among policymakers. In the last few weeks, he and other executives had been called upon to testify at several legislative hearings, including before U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein as well as the Joint Legislative Committee on Emergency Services and Homeland Security. The issue of interoperability had been raised in every hearing. It was clear to Chairman Renteria that while the opportunity was significant, the expectations were also very high.

Recognizing the challenges ahead, Chairman Renteria was impressed by what he had seen so far from the Technical Working Group's progress. He felt that the Committee was on the right track. He considered the October 31 draft to be the beginning of a plan that can help answer the questions he has been asked: "What are we doing?" and "Where are we going?" He would like the document to

be reduced in size, to be more in line with plans from other states that he regarded as straightforward and concise.

To meet the challenges ahead, Chairman Renteria emphasized that interoperability was a team effort that required all agencies to be at the same table. To that end, Chairman Renteria was actively communicating with other department directors and agency secretaries. He noted that he had recently been on the phone with CA Highway Patrol Commissioner Michael Brown on this issue and he had received Commissioner Brown's support for the current approach underway.

Chairman Renteria concluded by saying that he did not want the Committee to impede progress on the immediate operational needs of any of the member agencies. He stated his support for requests for funding or equipment that are currently in place (Budget Change Proposals). He told the Technical Working Group to let him know if there is anything that the Committee can do to help their agencies meet their immediate needs.

## **Part I: Working Session**

### ***Summary Highlights of PRSPC Report to Legislature***

Adam Sutkus, facilitator, briefly summarized the content of October 31 draft legislative report using a 1-page handout titled "Summary Highlights."

*[from the handout]*

The PSRSPC Strategic Plan & Report to California Legislature:

- ❖ Serves as both a status report to the legislature on the PSRSPC, and as a larger strategic approach for statewide public safety modernization & interoperability
- ❖ Focuses discussion on the first responder's needs in emergencies, the paramount reason communications must be modernized & interoperable
- ❖ Calls for an immediate assessment for state agencies to quickly identify top priority gaps that the PSRSPC can address now and prioritize for action
- ❖ Proposes an aggressive 3-phase work plan with recommended actions for PSRSPC to accomplish in the immediate term (1st quarter of 2006), mid-term (2nd quarter of 2006) and long-term (end of 2006 calendar year)
- ❖ Provides a detailed implementation process for an "8-point plan" of key initiatives that outlines goals, objectives, and implementation tasks—with performance and monitoring measures designed for each initiative
- ❖ Supports a "system of systems" emphasizing bridging tools (black-boxes) in the short term to increase interoperability, while designing statewide criteria that define standards that support compatible equipment into the long-term
- ❖ Identifies a need for strong and integrated governance structures to coordinate activity & sustain progress—especially with CALSIEC and regional partners
- ❖ Calls for a phased, renewable and priority-based funding strategy to be designed for California's public safety communications

- ❖ Calls for a “Vendor Conference” to focus research & private sector interaction
- ❖ Recognizes the key role that PSRSPC can fulfill as a unifying force to address multiple agency needs, review & prioritize projects and coordinate policy solutions
- ❖ Recognizes that collaborative protocols, plans, and procedures are as important as equipment upgrades towards achieving lasting interoperability
- ❖ Recognizes and seeks to build upon—not change—innovative ongoing work at the local and regional level, as well as among the individual state agencies
- ❖ Addresses a lack of understanding by decision-makers and the public about the costs, importance, gaps, and complexities of public safety communications

### ***Committee Comments on PSRPSC Report to Legislature***

Mr. Sutkus opened up the meeting to the Committee to give their comments to the Technical Working Group. In general, Committee members said that they liked the content of the report and felt it was a good rough draft. All expressed appreciation for the work done by the Technical Working Group since the September 28<sup>th</sup> PSRSPC Meeting. However, they felt the document was too long for a strategic document. They suggested that the report be restructured to make it more concise, outcome oriented, and easier to read.

Several Committee members agreed that funding issues should be addressed in more detail, specifically how Committee agencies can approach the CA Department of Finance with funding proposals in a more strategic and collaborative manner. Many Committee members asked for greater emphasis on the need to maintain current operability and modernization issues rather than just focusing on interoperability. Each Committee representative was, in turn, asked for thoughts and opinions on the draft report in order to give comprehensive feedback to the TWG.

Specific comments included:

- ❖ The current document was not a strategic plan, per se, but rather a “plan for a strategic plan.” Calling it a full CA strategic plan might raise expectations too high.
- ❖ The document contained some recommendations that were more appropriately within the purview of the Governor’s Office of Emergency Services rather than that of the Committee.
- ❖ More emphasis should be focused on critical infrastructure needs.
- ❖ Elevate funding issues, including how a collaborative approach might better survive the State’s Budget Change Proposal (BCP) process.
- ❖ The document should mention the importance of incidence command and governance structures more prominently, given the existence of these already in CA.
- ❖ The final Report would benefit from emulating strategic reports from other states that have addressed these issues.
- ❖ Keep the report “action oriented” -- the Phased Work Plan was a good approach.
- ❖ Think regionally. Provide brief, 1-paragraph descriptions of regional activities. Keep it short.

Many Committee members indicated that they would be submitting their formal comments to the Technical Working Group in subsequent e-mails. There was a request that these subsequent e-mail comments to the Technical Working Group also be circulated to other Committee members. It was agreed that Committee members could send their comments via the Committee's e-mail listserv.

Mr. Sutkus thanked the Committee for their input. He also asked the Committee to send their written comments as soon as possible. The Technical Working Group would next meet on Friday, November 4<sup>th</sup> to assess comments received and begin revising the document.

## **Part II Comment Period**

*Comment from Scott Mullan, Unisys*

**Unisys** asked when the Committee would open up conversations with other organizations. He said that there are technologies in the market that might be useful to the Committee's strategic planning efforts. He suggested the Committee may not be not aware of solution technologies that could expedite the process.

Mr. Sutkus said that one of the recommendations in the draft Legislative report was to set up a vendor conference. The vendor conference would be one of the items that the PSRSPC and Technical Working Group would address in Phase 1, or the first quarter of 2006. The actual conference would take place in the 2nd quarter of 2006. Mr. Sutkus explained that the Technical Working Group's ultimate goal is to collaboratively build a concise list of criteria that is applicable to all agencies. Consolidated criteria would help state agencies by freeing them from vendor presentations that they may not need to see, and it would also help vendors by informing them of specifications ahead of time so they can more precisely address agency needs.

## **Closing Comments**

Chairman Renteria closed by thanking everyone for coming to the meeting. He recognized the Technical Working Group and the Center for Collaborative Policy for their contributions. On behalf of the full Committee, he stated that everyone was looking forward to viewing the final draft soon.

## **Future Meetings**

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for November 30<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 to 3:00 P.M. The purpose of the meeting would be to review and approve for transmittal a completed draft of the Legislative Report. The location will be determined. A notice will be put on the new PSRSPC website and sent via the PSRSPC e-mail distribution list.

The PSRSPC is generally scheduled to meet every other month for the near-term, to ensure that progress and commitment to effort remain strong.

## **Committee Representatives**

Corry Cummings – Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR)  
Steve Edinger – Department of Fish and Game (DFG)  
Rich Green - Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF)  
Sonny Fong – Department of Water Resources (DWR)  
Barry Hemphill – Department of General Services (DGS)  
Karen Jackson – Department of Justice (DOJ)  
Ted Jackson – Department of Parks and Recreation (P&R)  
Scott MacGregor – California Highway Patrol (CHP)  
Ferdinand Milanes – Department of Transportation (DOT)  
Henry Renteria – Office of Emergency Services (OES)  
Robert Samaan – Office of Homeland Security (OHS)  
Bonnie Sinz – Emergency Medical Safety Authority (EMSA)

## **Others Present**

Manuel Bergado – P&R  
Marlo Brush – OES  
Phyllis Cauley – OESP  
Ken Chappelle – CDCR  
Bill DeCamp – Telecom. Div. (DGS-TD)  
Javier Delkio – DOT  
Richard Engelsen – DFG  
Dennis Elwell – DGS-TD  
Victor Garcia – DWR  
Gary Grootveld – DGS-TD  
Kim Ismail – DOJ  
Balbir Johl – DGS-TD  
Gail Lockhart – OES  
Bob Marsh – Codespear  
Doug McClure – CDCR  
Scott Mullan – Unisys  
Glen Nash – DGS-TD  
Jim Pratt – DGS-TD  
Don Root – OES, T-Comm  
Glen Savage – CDF  
John Schmidt – DOT  
David Sumi – Center for Collaborative Policy (CCP)  
Adam Sutkus – CCP  
Carlos Talamantes – CHP  
Stephen Virdure – DOJ  
Steve Waters – Unisys  
Tom Worden – OES